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ALFONSIN MEETS U.S. LAWMAKERS, VIEWS C. AMERICA

PY021630 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1455 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin today told a delegation of U.S. lawmakers headed by Thomas O'Neill that Argentina "does not believe" that encouraging armed actions by the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries is "an appropriate method" for the objectives of the democracies of the region. The president thus alluded to the $100 million in military aid that the U.S. Government is trying to extend to the Nicaraguan irregulars. Alfonsin pointed out that the democracies of the region must follow "another method" to fulfill an objective that "is shared by the United States and by the majority of Latin American nations. This objective is to make sure that a pluralistic, democratic government rules in Nicaragua."

During the meeting with the U.S. lawmakers at the Olivos residence this morning, the president also referred to the foreign debt issue as the "discriminatory commercial measures applied by both the EEC and the United States." At the conclusion of the meeting, presidential spokesman Ignacio Lopez told reporters that "the Central American crisis and the foreign debt were the main topics discussed" during the 1-hour meeting. The 14 U.S. lawmakers, who were accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz and other officials, left the presidential residence without making any comments.

Lopez remarked that Alfonsin pointed out to the U.S. lawmakers the seriousness "of the spectacular drop in the prices of farm and cattle products" observed over the past few months. "This factor has further aggravated the situation of the Latin American countries, particularly because it has affected the quality and quantity of our exports," Alfonsin added.

The president said that this situation constitutes "one of the most serious crises that the sector has experienced in decades." The presidential spokesman added that at the request of the U.S. lawmakers, Alfonsin reiterated the Argentine Government's support for the Contadora Group negotiations and stated that "Argentina does not believe that encouraging the armed action of the so-called contras is an appropriate method" for the objectives of the democratic countries of the region.

The president added: "Another method must be followed to fulfill an objective that is shared by the United States and the majority of the Latin American nations. This objective is to make sure that a pluralistic, democratic government rules in Nicaragua." In conclusion, Lopez reported that Alfonsin thanked his interlocutors for their visit "because it will help maintain an open dialogue between lawmakers of democratic countries, and particularly because it will help strengthen democracy in our country and in all the other Latin American countries."

TROCCOLI ON COMMITMENT TO RECOVER FALKLANDS

PY022115 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (NA) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli has denied that the national government "is trying to make the people forget their hopes for the recovery of the Malvinas Islands." He noted the need to strengthen a strategy through diplomatic channels seeking solutions "for the recovery of the South Atlantic islands."

Troccoli, who attended a mass in commemoration of those who died during the Malvinas war, stated at the end of the ceremony that "we have an obstacle to negotiations and that obstacle is the U.K. Government, but we are convinced that this situation will be overcome and the legitimacy of Argentine rights will be recognized."

The interior minister also referred to the conflict and recalled that "heroism and total sacrifice have marked an exceptional characteristic in the life of the Argentine people, and we recall that sacrifice constitutes something that goes deep in the national spirit." "With this objective we are working to integrate the islands to the republic geographically and politically once and for all," Troccoli stated.

Asked whether negotiations with Great Britain could be resumed before the end of Dr Alfonsin's presidential term, he said: "The Foreign Ministry has begun with systematic force the attempt to negotiate a rapprochement which the war action has delayed more than expected." He also termed "unconfirmed rumor" the report that Judge Cardinali had accused him of not having complied with the duties of a public official on admitting Raul Guglielminetti into the intelligence services of the constitutional government. In this regard he said that "Judge Cardinali has the power to make whatever accusations he wishes, but he will have to prove them. We have fulfilled our duties, and we are also in a position to prove it."

SAILOR CONFIRMS ARMS SHIPMENT TO HONDURAS

PY030408 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0242 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (DYN) -- Sailor Alberto Alonso of the Argentine cargo vessel Punta Brava today reiterated that toward the end of December last year this ship "carried a cargo of [word indistinct] that were unloaded in Puerto Cortes," Honduras. The report on the sale of arms to Honduras has appeared in the latest issue of the magazine EL PORTENO and has been officially denied.

Alonso held a press conference at the headquarters of EL PORTENO. On this occasion he said that he "was surprised by the official denial because all the members of the crew witnessed the initial loading in Buenos Aires, in which the Argentine Army participated, and the unloading in Honduras." Alonso also said that in addition to the photographs he took of the shipment -- published by EL PORTENO -- "it would be easy to check out the movement of ships in Puerto Cortes on the date in question, including a Honduran Navy ship Tegucigalpa and a German ship whose crews also witnessed the unloading." According to the report the shipment to Honduras included 50 troop carriers, and light and medium arms that were later taken into the country where the bases of Nicaraguan contras are located.

COSMONAUT KUBASOV ARRIVES FOR COMMUNIST FESTIVAL

PY011429 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0340 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (TELAM) -- Soviet Cosmonaut Valeriy Nicolayevich Kubasov, who has been awarded the medal of the Hero of the USSR on two occasions, this afternoon arrived in Argentina to attend the third Argentine Communist Party Annual Festival. Kubasov, 51, holds a Phd in technical sciences. In October 1969 he flew the Soyuz 6 and in 1975 the Soyuz 19. His last space flight was in 1980.

GOVERNMENT FIRES 75,000 STRIKING TEACHERS

PY021457 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2351 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 1 Apr (EFE) -- The Bolivian Government today automatically fired some 75,000 urban and rural teachers upon the expiration of the deadline of a government ultimatum to lift the general strike they have been holding over the past 2 months in support of a salary increase.

Irvin Alcaraz, the vice minister of information, has announced significant reforms in the education system. Included in the reforms is the registration of new teachers at the national level to replace those fired.

The official government spokesman said that the "executive branch will enforce its decision to declare the teachers' positions vacant in order to purge the list of teachers and to separate those who are harmful to the functioning of the school."

The government of President Victor Paz Estenssoro had issued a decree declaring the teachers' strike illegal and calling on them to return to work within 6 days. The deadline expired on 1 April.

Noel Orozco, the executive secretary of the Bolivian Teachers Confederation, said that the government can go ahead and look for 75,000 "ascetics" to work for a starvation salary to replace the teachers.

Orozco said that the government decree firing the teachers is unconstitutional and arbitrary. He also announced that the strike will continue.

The teachers' claims have the support of the population because their salaries are below the level considered essential to survive.

AIR FORCE CHIEF MATTHEI DISAGREES WITH SHULTZ

PY021459 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] No Chilean shares the opinion of the U.S. secretary of state. This comment was made by Chilean Air Force Commander in Chief General Fernando Matthei when referring to a statement by the U.S. secretary of state, who has said that Chile is ruled by a dictatorship like those in Cuba and Nicaragua. I believe he does not have a clear picture of the situation, and I believe no Chilean will agree with him, Gen Matthei said. Gen Matthei referred to this issue after an ordinary meeting of the Government Junta at the Diego Portales building. The legislative branch met this afternoon to analyze and approve an additional tax on fuels.

DEL VALLE RESPONDS TO REP MORRISON'S REMARKS

PY030125 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] A few minutes ago Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle stated that Chile does not need advice from foreign congressmen. He was referring to statements by U.S. Democratic Congressman Bruce Morrison on human rights in Chile. The foreign minister stated:

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] we do not need foreign statements, speeches, recommendations, advice, or elections, because we know perfectly well the path that we are taking. Therefore, I am not at all concerned about the recommendations that have been made by this congressman, or by any other congressman, because we have our own path to follow, and we will follow it. [end recording]

Del Valle also stated that he could not care less who gave this type of recommendation, whether from the U.S. Government, France, or the FRG, because, he said, Chile has its own path to follow. He stressed that the government is not running scared and that it does not act from fear of what other countries do where Chile is concerned.

LABOR LEADERS SEEK TO POSTPONE PAPAL VISIT

PY022236 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0306 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 1 Apr (EFE) -- A group of labor union leaders and members headed by Clotario Blest, a longtime union leader who has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize on three occasions, today opposed Pope John Paul II's visit to Chile. According to reports by the Nunciature, the pope plans to visit Chile in 1987, and a bishops' commission is already working on a schedule for the visit.

Blest and 10 other union leaders today joined progressive Catholic groups who are asking the pope to "postpone his visit to the country until social justice and freedom are established in our nation." Progressive Catholic groups are also collecting signatures for a letter to the pope asking him to postpone his visit to Chile to prevent the military's using his visit as propaganda.

FARC INVITES POPE, BETANCUR TO HEADQUARTERS

PA021331 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0301 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr (EFE) -- FARC, which signed a truce with the government, today invited Pope John Paul II and President Belisario Betancur to their headquarters in the mountain "to reflect about the national peace process." The oldest guerrilla group in the country, which signed an indefinite truce with Betancur's government in 1984, stated that "even though we have not gone to confession for quite a time, we want to avail ourselves of the pope's visit to Colombia next July and "tell him the truth." [Quotation marks as received]

Jacobo Arenas, Alfonso Cano, and Timoleon Jimenez (alias Timoschenko), members of the High Command, stated to a national television newscast that their group may break the truce any moment "if they are attacked or if another round is fired against them." "All FARC members agreed on the invitation to the pope, a world figure who seeks the same thing that the Colombians seek: peace with justice," said Jimenez at La Uribe, a mountain region 200 km southwest of Bogota.

The new member of the group's Directorate, the ideologist whose real name is Luis Morantes, agreed with Arenas' statement that "we have not gone to confession for quite a time, but since so many things have happened and it is necessary to tell the truth, we want to tell it to the pope."

Arenas said that FARC is sponsoring a national civic strike "to protest militarism, unless a national consensus is achieved" and deplored the fact that he had never held a personal dialogue with the head of state.

The guerrilla leaders also revealed that Jose Fedor Rey (alias Javier Delgado) deserted and took $8 million to the Ricardo Franco dissident group, where he ordered the execution of more than 150 persons, accusing them of being "military infiltrators."

FARC reasserted that they will fulfill the truce, extended indefinitely last 1 March, through the Patriotic Unity party, which participated in the legislative elections held on 9 March; it will also participate in the upcoming 25 May presidential elections.

The invitation for an interview at the FARC camp was extended to those who hope to replace Betancur in the Presidency for the next 4 years. FARC was founded more than 35 years ago and at one time was comprised of 9,000 men in 27 different fronts.

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH U.S. EXPIRES END OF APRIL

PA021927 Bogota Radio Sutatenza in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The deadline for submitting amendments to the current extradition treaty between the United States and Colombia expires this month. The two countries decided to set that deadline in view of the fact that meetings held between the two countries' commissions have failed.

Justice Minister Enrique Parejo Gonzalez told Radio Sutatenza that the Colombian delegates will travel to Washington in the 3d week of April. If no positive agreements are reached at that time, Colombia will give up proposing new conversations between the two countries.

STROESSNER ADDRESSES OPENING OF CONGRESS

PY021615 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 1304 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Speech by President Alfredo Stroessner to the opening session of Congress -- live]

[Excerpts] Honorable members of the National Congress. In compliance with Article 180, Clause 10 of the nation's Constitution, I am here to open this year's legislative session and to report on the activities carried out by the government from 1 April 1985 to today. I am very pleased to assert before the representative of the people that the Republic of Paraguay is moving ahead safely and confidently toward the future with order, freedom, and all the spiritual force of the nationalism that we inherited from our forefathers under the sign of glory.

Our words are infused with faith and optimism because peace prevails and because there can be no arguments against peace. Peace is the triumph of law and order. Peace is a patriotic and Christian task that means the defeat of violence and the affirmation of the reign of progress through the wide path of fraternity. We are a civilized nation respectful of the precepts of the law and of the basic principles of coexistence. The people have placed in our hands a responsibility, in the face of which we will not weaken or retreat, to defend the Constitution and the laws of the Republic. [applause]

Municipal elections were held on 20 October 1985. The elections ended with the following results: Colorado Party: 700,012 votes; Radical Liberal Party: 61,500 votes; Liberal Party: 23,899 votes; void and blank votes: 9,423 votes. The elections were clean, without deaths or injuries. This is democracy and not cheap talk. [applause] Democracy cannot be defended by a weak government. Democracy means casting votes in elections. The Colorado Party is the government, because it is the majority, and the minorities must assist in making a good government.

We have overcome decades of painful anarchy. We have put an end to the petty practices of discord which for so many years divided the Paraguayan people and wasted their energy through useless hate. The memoirs of Msgr Juan Sinforiano Bogarin prove this. This illustrious man was born on 21 August 1863 and died on 25 February 1949. The monsignor was an archbishop who made his pastoral trips on horseback, carrying his religious mission over nearly 50,000 km of our territory. I recommend that his memoirs be read so that the atrocities committed in the past and the anarchy that prevailed and resulted in a lack of attention to our sovereignty can be understood. This anarchy facilitated the invasion of our territory, which resulted in the bloody confrontation with Bolivia.

From the beginning of our administration we have ensured respect for human rights by saying yes to peace and no to the barbarism of extremists, crime, and subversion. [applause] Our democracy means protection of life and freedom, it is a shell to protect the decency of the citizens, a tireless effort at the service of common good. The world no longer looks at us as a society divided by hatred and poverty. The Constitution is legitimate and cannot be attacked. No one has the right to ignore or disobey the Constitution, because it is the cornerstone of our free institutions as established by Article 9 of the Constitution. The Constitution is the supreme law of the nation.

Our actions comply and will continue to comply with the Constitution and the laws, which we respect and enforce. [applause] We will not tolerate the disruption of coexistence. We speak legitimately in the name of the people, because their vote gave us our constitutional mandate. The Colorado Party speaks on behalf of the people because it has the overwhelming majority, as demonstrated in the elections. Anyone who speaks without representativity in the name of the people is a subversive usurper, not a democrat. [applause]

The government, made up of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, with the protective shell of the law and democracy, functions in harmony with the institutions. The government is not only made up of the Colorado Party, which is the overwhelming majority, but also of the legally recognized opposition parties as shown by the integration of this Congress, the municipalities, and the electoral courts which are proof of the democratic multiparty system. The irregular groups are the deserters of civic responsibility, enemies of elections, and insignificant enclaves of embittered politicians who speak of democracy yet do not want anything to do with the elections, who speak of the state of law yet advocate the violation of the law, who speak of dialogue yet hold monologues by excluding themselves from elections. They are recalcitrant fanatics who talk only among themselves and cannot see the benefits of the great achievements of peace. [applause]

We have not only established peace by dialogue, but also peace by achievements. We exchange opinions and viewpoints as a part of the policy of common good. We talk and listen, and we do not waste time on rhetoric. We go into action very day to do what is positive and beneficial for the country. One of the reasons for the great political influence of the Colorodo Party is that it never stopped seeking out the feelings of the people. Inspired by that principle, it has not governed once against the great desires of the people. I have always been in contact with the politicians who act within the law, with the workers, peasants, businessmen, students, teachers, with the representatives of the church, social, cultural, economic, and sports circles, with men and women and even children, who come to my office with their tender gestures of affection. [applause]

Our policies are successful because they are guided by the will of the people. We practice freedom without demagoguery. Dialogue within the law is democracy. Dialogue outside the law is not dialogue but subversion. [applause] The vote is the best demonstration of democratic dialogue, because the people express their sovereign will through vote and those who support democracy cannot be against elections, because in a democracy elections determine who are the real representatives.

We are in the vanguard regarding the vast range of human rights. There is freedom to work, to enjoy culture, to carry out all types of legal activities, and to allow for the full development of the human being. The peaceful revolution not only provides dignity for the Paraguayan man, it has also obtained the full exercise of civilian and political rights for the Paraguayan woman, based on legislation that justifies the self-sacrifice and virtures of the women who participated in the War of the Triple Alliance. [applause]

There is not one stain on our democracy. There are no political prisoners. There are no missing persons. There are no freedom-restricting laws. We have no terrorism, and there are no bloody street incidents. We do not have masses of very poor people begging for help to subsist. We do not have an alarming unemployment rate or the heavy burden of illiteracy. We do not have the dramas of some countries whose youth have surrendered to drugs and crime or the poison of extremist ideologies.

Regarding the strengthening of our economic independence, with legitimate pride, I can state that we have achieved self-sufficiency in wheat, thus overcoming every type of pessimistic forecast and at the same time we are guaranteeing Paraguayan bread for Paraguayan homes. It is our desire to create more opportunities for the progress and happiness of our people. Thus I can state happily that more than 200 localities are now receiving electricity, and this will allow them to progress rapidly in all sectors. The country enjoys freedom of the press, and this is confirmed by the dailies, weeklies, magazines, radios, and television channels that report, that have commentaries, and that criticize without any type of restriction. Censorship does not exist, journalists are not intimidated in any way, and no methods are used to influence, either directly or indirectly, the leanings of the media.

There are journalistic organs that abuse freedom of the press through the dissemination of false reports and biased commentaries that distort the truth of today's Paraguay. The dissemination of lies abroad, with the intention of harming the country's image, must be repudiated. When free reign is given to sensationalism or when discouragement, pessimism, and confusion are sown, then the journalist is not acting responsibly. Just to mention one case, pseudo-journalists have exaggerated the effects of the drought. A group of farmers, however, of Itapua and Alto Parana have expressed, to a group of journalists, their denial that there was an alarming situation regarding the soybean harvest. If there had been a decrease in the yield per hectare in no way would it have had negative or serious repercussions on the economy. A similar case occurred in Volendam.

It is our duty to guarantee freedom of the press, but it must be properly understood that at the same time it is our duty to prevent excesses that violate peace and coexistence. Terrorism by the pen or by the word violates the free thinking of man and tries to create a situation of social unrest, subversion, and chaos. It must not be forgotten that the Constitution guarantees freedom of thought and opinion, but Article 71 states: The preaching of hate among Paraguayans, class struggles, or the eulogy of crime or violence will not be allowed. Criticism of the laws is free, but nobody can disobey their contents. Article 73 establishes that all press organs must have a legal and responsible directorate. Serious journalism does not lie or defame. It forms and informs. It forms ideas for the good, and it informs with objectivity. [applause]

Paraguay has never refused its support for the causes of the Western world. We are a nation that honors the banner of freedom within the continent and demonstrates its moral values under the full compliance of its international commitments. We are a nation that has never shirked its duty of respecting the self-determination of other nations. Thus, as a nation we demand respect for our sovereignty, which is a sacred principle. We are intransigent in the defense of our sovereignty, which is the heritage of our race, the sovereignty that is lit by the unquenchable radiance of the example of our glorious dead, by the indomitable courage of our people, who in two international wars showed how they could fight and die in order to stop anyone from striking the banner of national dignity. [applause]

We do not accept foreign formulas regarding Paraguayan matters, because they are Paraguayan and they will be resolved by Paraguayans. Here we do what the people want us to do, and no one can ignore the fact that these people were born ready for freedom and they have never imported liberators. [applause] Paraguay outlines its own paths, in accordance with its history and its ideals, without subjugation, which humiliates, and without domination, which degrades.

We contribute to America with our reality of peace and a deep faith in the cause of solidarity between brother countries. At the United Nations, the OAS, and all international forums we clearly and firmly defend the values of Western and Christian civilization. We do not hesitate nor are we ambiguous in our language when facing the challenge of extremist ideologies.

The Yacyreta Dam project continues, and up to 31 December 1985 $134 million had been paid out for the main civil engineering works and $65 million for equipment and other construction work. There are more than 1,500 Paraguayans working there, including professionals, technicians, and workers. We continue with the firm purpose of achieving the construction of the soybean railway, which will significantly influence national development.

The visit of two distinguished representatives from the British Government, Sir Anthony Acland, permanent under secretary of state of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and chief of the Diplomatic Service, and Mrs Peggy Fenner, parliamentary minister for agriculture, fisheries, and food [title as heard], was very encouraging from the viewpoint of cooperation for development. The visit of more than 30 businessmen belonging to the Trade Advisory Group for Latin America of the British Directorate for Foreign Trade was an eloquent testimony of the interest there is in our country, which is in an optimum position to receive investment.

In September 1982, when I accepted the presidential candidacy that had been offered me by the people of the Colorado Party, I said that I would assume that responsibility because I believed that I could not fail when counting on the support of the great majority. I did not fail, and I will not fail because of this popular support and because of my passion for wanting an ever greater and stronger Paraguay. [applause] The government, the people, and the glorious Armed Forces are immutably united, and they will not hesitate to take quick action against the enemies of our peace, of our democracy, and of our state of law. Our motto is simple: Neither a strong hand nor weakness, but firmness. [applause] Firmness to defend the law, firmness to protect human rights. We are not going to lower our guard when facing the threat of foreign ideas. And national dignity will not give an inch when facing foreign attempts to interfere in the affairs that are of the exclusive concern of the Republic of Paraguay.

The 14th and 15th of May 1986 will be the 175th anniversary of the right that was won by our people to be the architects of their own destiny. It is an honor for me, from within the constitutional government, to be the standard bearer of a historic cause, that of one of the most powerful and oldest political organizations in America and the world, of a party that will be 100 years old on 11 September 1987. It has been 100 years of loyalty to the Paraguayan people, 100 years of enhancing the law, freedom, justic, and democracy. The great, unbeatable, and glorious Colorado Party is the bastion of more than 1 million Paraguayans who are proud to be Colorados, working for the good of the fatherland and maintaining the moral standards that give prestige to humanity.

There will be more progress in all sectors. It is my hope that Congress will continue to give the nation valuable legal instruments that are the fruit of the responsible discussion of ideas. I recommend that all Paraguayans increase production and work with more creativity. Peace poses a challenge to those who want and must build. I therefore urge businessmen to design and implement more projects that should bring socioeconomic benefits.

The government cannot be expected to do everything. Conditions are excellent for creating new jobs and for promoting transportation, bearing in mind everyone's personal interests but remembering that the good of the country comes first. [applause] Our peaceful revolution will vigorously move forward to victory with the enthusiasm and the work of the Colorado Party and with the efforts of all well-meaning fellow countrymen of other political parties and of all well-meaning foreigners. [applause] This will be a victory for those who are good and just. We are at peace with our own consciences, because we have devoted ourselves to working for the well-being and progress of the great Paraguayan family.

On 18 March 1986 the newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO carried a front-page story under a big headline reading: Pope Warns Priests That the Church Should Not Engage in Politics. In a Holy Week message addressed to all priests, Pope John Paul II warned those who mix their work with political activities. The pope condemned the attempt to turn priests into laymen and stressed that priests should limit themselves to preaching the word of God. Some excerpts of the pope's message were released on 31 March in the Vatican, 2 days after the end of a meeting between the pope and the Brazilian bishops. The participation of priests in political and labor matters was also discussed during this meeting. This message from the pope must be respected. We demand respect for this message in Paraguay. And I will make no further comment.... [applause] because our people are intelligent, and a word to the wise is sufficient. [applause] They will realize about whom I am talking, and they will realize to whom this message should apply.

We did not lack energy in war to defend the fatherland's sovereignty, and neither will we lack energy in peace to continue to strengthen the nation's prosperity. Our people will always be thankful for peace, for the freedom that it grants, for the happiness that it inspires, and for the progress that it offers. We assure that the time of dictatorship will not return, that the barbarian times of the massacre of workers in Puerto Pinasco, the slaying of soldiers at the Coronel Martinez Fort, and the slaying of students on 23 October 1931 will not return. The agents of discord have been sidelined. Slayings and massacres were normal in the past. However, some individuals have made a great to-do, have pretended to be scandalized, and have reached for support from the international press because of an insignificant event in which there were neither deaths nor injuries.

We are creating democracy, we do not engage in cheap rhetoric. The people are in the forefront. We will continue to work with the people and for the people. We are strongly motivated to continue improving, because we have the appreciation and the affection of the great Paraguayan people. [applause]

Honorable members of Congress: On opening this new legislative period, it is my wish that the deliberations of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies will take a wise course. I reiterate my faith in the bright destiny of the Republic of Paraguay. [applause]

Asks Aides To Be Firm

PY021730 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Impromptu speech by President Alfredo Stroessner to ministers, officers, and Chief Justice Luis Maria Argana, who greeted him in his office at Government Palace after his speech to Congress on 1 April -- recorded]

[Text] I feel honored by your presence in my office after I delivered my message to Congress.

All of you know that there is a great deal of truth in what I said. I have often heard people say that the truth is always best, no matter how bitter. Thus, I told the truth so that the same mistakes will not be repeated.

We are part of a government that is doing things, and I will not repeat what I have said. We are doing things in all areas. I urge each one of you, individually, to do his best. A good man is not one who does not do anything evil, but one who exerts himself to do things better. I believe that all of us are under the obligation to live up to this ideal. And we are doing so, justifying ourselves before the people who support us. The people are in the vanguard, and the country is making continuous progress. I have told the truth, and we must remember it so that the same mistakes are not repeated in our country.

I mentioned some anecdotes referred to in the memoirs of Msgr Bogarin, the old Msgr Bogarin. These memoirs are very good, especially when they say that mistrust and chicken soup do not hurt anyone. Many things in these memoirs are true.

Now, perhaps I am the oldest among you...Minister Barrientos is looking at me very seriously...[laughter] because he is a few years older. I don't know who is older. No one wants to grow old. People want only to speak of being younger.

The years in which we are now living are very interesting, because democracy is a reality here. Some attempts are being made to attack this democracy, but they will not affect us. They will affect only those who make such attempts. I am referring to those senators and deputies of the opposition who were absent, violating the Constitution, which orders that we, they and I, be present in Congress. They are in serious error. I believe they will mend their ways.

Our party, the great Colorado Party, is very big. We have seen the people...there is our friend Aquino [president of Colorado Party Chapter No. 14 in the Chacarita neighborhood of Asuncion who in the past led repressive actions at the Catholic University]. He likes to be told that he is from the Chacarita. He is the moderator who keeps order at the Catholic University. [laughter] Isn't it remarkable? A moderator is one who acts... and we will still need him...but not yet. We have a firm government, a fine Armed Forces, a great Colorado Party... and we are not mentioning the Urban Guard [Colorado Party militia that acted as evening street patrols during the 1947 civil war] but we have good reserves....

We must not act with weakness, because the brazenness of the opposition will go only as far as our weakness allows it go go. So the opposition will test us, but it will come to realize that we stand firm. We will be neither weak nor hard, but firm. I was told this over Holy Week, when I have made it a habit to visit churches. This time I visited 11 churches, although according to tradition only 7 churches need to be visited. I visited Father Marino Leon at the Christ the King Church, who saw action against the reds in Spain, and he continues to hold to that line. I asked him: Are you holding firm to the same position, or have you turned to Filipillo [Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez] and the likes? He told me: No, I am always firm... because firmness is beautiful.

I am asking you to be firm, because there are some who are ready to move across the line, believing that the ship is leaking. If there is a hole in the ship, we will plug it. Have no doubt about this. [laughter] There are some who are deserting the ship, even without pressure. This is why the last time you gathered in my office I told you that I expected a minimum of deserters if there were an emergency, and you looked at one another. [laughter] Then some asked me why I said that. This is the way it is, and we have seen it: The weak succumb. We may yet have some surprises when some from our ranks bolt to the other side. This is sure to happen. We cannot have coffee and cream, it has to be either coffee or cream. We must be firm here.

I thank you very much and will not talk about what the pope says, that the church is not a political institution. This has been reported in the newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, and it seemed interesting to me, but I will not comment on it because the Paraguayan people are intelligent enough to know what it refers to. I have already made references, and the people know. I need not give you names, because you know them as well, or perhaps better, than I.

I thank you very much for your comments, Dr Argana and General Rodriguez. [applause]

PLR ASKS FOR GREATER POLITICAL OPENING

PY020357 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 12

[Text] In a communique the Liberal Radical Party [PLR] states that one cannot think of true coexistence among the various political parties in the country insofar as these political parties barely coexist within a framework of restructed freedoms and asks for a greater political opening in order to implement the effectiveness of democracy in Paraguay.

Such a stand was announced by the PLR executive board when it recommended that the congressmen representing the PLR not attend the protocol ceremony opening the legislative sessions this morning.

In its communique, the PLR asks that corruption be eradicated and that concrete measures be taken to put the state's finances on a sound footing.

After asking for the recovery of the national economy, the PLR also criticized the continuous disregard "of the basic right of the citizens' freedom," recalling, among other things, the unending state of siege, the implementation of repressive and unconstitutional laws, and the existence of "famine and misery among the population as a result of speculation protected or tolerated by the government."

The PLR states that under "such circumstances one cannot think of true coexistence when the various trends within the national political specturm barely coexist" and concludes by asking that the public administration be put on a sound footing and that the citizens' socioeconomic levels be restored within a framework of political opening." [quotation marks as published]

COLORADO PARTY RESPONDS TO 'GROUP OF 34'

PY021919 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 8

[Excerpts] The Colorado Party Executive Board has officially released a note in response to [a petition by] the "Group of 34," telling the signatories that according to a resolution made on 12 March, the Colorado Party has decided to create a special commission to receive the "founding document of the National Republican Association (Colorado Party) on a day and time that will be set in due time."

The note, which is dated 17 March and is signed by Chairman Dr Juan Ramon Chaves and Political Secretary Mario Abdo Benitez, states the following: "I am pleased to address you, and through you the other signatories of the note sent to us on 3 February 1986, in order to inform you that in a session held on 12 March, the Colorado Party Executive Board decided unanomously to approve your decision to cooperate with the party Executive Board."

"I emphasize the fact that" -- the note which is addressed to Dr Edgar L. Ynsfran, continues -- "the fellow party members who have signed the note have in the past held positions that have given brilliance to our powerful political association."

"We agree with the fact that on the verge of our party's 100th anniversary all Colorado Party members must be united, in action and in thinking, to mark such an auspicious event," the note adds.

"With a brotherly greeting, faithfully yours," concludes the note, which is signed by Chaves and Abdo Benitez.

POLITICAL PARTIES CRTICIZE OIL CONTRACTS

PY022314 Paris AFP in Spanish 1951 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 1 Apr (AFP) -- The opposition party Popular Action [AP] today charged that the recent contracts signed between the current nationalistic Peruvian Government and the Occidental Petroleum Company to continue with the latter's oil operations in the Amazon jungle are very harmful to Peru. In a written declaration, which experts believe may start a controversy, the AP revealed that since the end of 1984 the U.S. oil company has been trying to sign a new agreement because it foresaw the drop of oil prices. The AP government at that time avoided signing any change in the contract conditions valid then, the AP statement signed by AP General Secretary Senator Sandro Mariategui says.

Another opposition party, the Popular Christian Party [PPC] also issued a similar declaration terming the government's behavior on the oil issue as wrong and inappropriate. The declaration of the AP, party of former President Fernando Belaunde Terry, who passed the Presidency to the young social democrat ruler and leader of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party [APRA] Alan Garcia on 28 July, thoroughly analyzes four issues raised by Garcia last August, when he stated his intention to terminate the contracts with the Occidental Petroleum Co.

The four issues are: the elimination of incentives to investments, the return of 441 billion soles ($41.5 million) and more than 3 million barrels of oil for alleged nonpayment of taxes in 1985, the reinstatement of a 68.5-percent tax previously reduced to 41.1 percent, and the recovery of $267.5 million, which Occidental will invest only in prospecting.

The AP declaration states that regarding the recovery of $267.5 million, the government will actually benefit with $284 million with the $3.30 surcharge per barrel it has obtained. The amount of money would be even greater if the proven reserves calculated by the U.S. company amount to more than 86 million barrels. The AP and PPC reproach the government for not having issued an oil law before signing the agreements and for not having taken into consideration the criticisms by the political parties of the oil contract projects. The PPC believes that the responsibility for the signed contracts falls exclusively on Mines and Energy Minister Wilfredo Huayta and the Council of Ministers. The PPC states that the president of the Republic is not responsible for this because of constitutional regulations, and the opposition political parties cannot be blamed either for what has been done or what has not been done.

GARCIA ON DISMISSAL OF IMF REPRESENTATIVE

PY030132 Paris AFP in Spanish 2249 GMT 2 Apr 86

[excerpt] Lima, 2 Apr (AFP) -- President Alan Garcia today clarified that the withdrawal of Valmar de Moraes, the IMF's representative in Peru, is due to the fact that his contract with the government has come to an end. Prime Minister and Economy Minister Luis Alva Castro announced last night that Moraes' mission in Lima had been terminated. Moraes is currently in Washington, but he had an office in the Central Reserve Bank (a money-issuing organization). The president stated that the presence of the IMF representative was due to a contract that had been signed between that organization and the Peruvian Government. This contract has now come to an end, and it will not be renewed, he added. Garcia also stated that this measure guarantees our independence if we are faced with any foreign interference or participation in our economy or with any attempt to supervise it.

WAGNER DISCUSSES RESTRICTING ARMS EXPENDITURES

PY021505 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The first graduate from the diplomacy academy to reach the post of foreign relations minister, Alan Wagner today dedicated this institution's academic term. In his 1-hour speech, Minister Garcia said that Peruvian foreign policy is based on four principles: nationalism, anti-imperialism, integration, and nonalignment. He also affirmed that Peru is deeply committed to Latin America. After the ceremony, the minister announced the next meeting of the Chilean and Peruvian military chiefs.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter, in progress]...the next meeting of military chiefs here in Lima?

[Wagner] We believe it is very important. I have already held talks on two occasions at the political and diplomatic levels with the Chilean foreign minister, during which we established the general guidelines for a series of talks on restricting weapons expenditures. It is now time to start talks at the technical level. This means that the Armed Forces of our countries, with the aid of diplomats, will start discussing the details of this process to restrict military expenditures. Of course, this submect must not be limited only to Peru and Chile. It must try gradually to include all the countries of the region so as to reach a regional agreement on restricting weapons expenditures, as proposed by President Alan Garcia last 28 July. [end recording]

WAR MINISTER ON OPERATIONS AGAINST SHINING PATH

PY030235 Paris AFP in Spanish 0202 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 1 Apr (AFP) -- War Minister General Jorge Flores today stated that the blows that the Peruvian Armed Forces and police have made against the subversive activities of the Shining Path have caused a notable decrease in that organization's activities in the departments of Ayacucho, Huancavelica and Apurimac. After a meeting with President Alan Garcia at Government House, Torres stated that in the emergency zone, which is the center of Maoist insurrection, the forces of order recently captured two subversive groups, one with 16 members and the other with 20.

The minister also stated that due to the pressure that is being applied, the terrorists have fled toward the provinces of Melgar and Azangaro and in lesser numbers toward the provinces of Pasco, Otuzco, Huamachuco and others located in the northern part of the country. The police have the situation under control in those places, he added. He said that in Lima, military and police uniforms and weapons that were in the possession of the terrorists have been confiscated. I believe that the extension of the state of emergency in the capital will permit us to capture more terrorists, he added.

He also stated that the Joint Command of the Armed Forces is evaluating the situation in Puno, where there are conflicts over land. The conflicts are being fuelled by the Shining Path. The Joint Command will submit its report to the cabinet so that it can decide whether to implement the state of emergency in that department, he said.

PRESIDENT RESHUFFLES CABINET, NAMES NEW MINISTERS

PY021709 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1624 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 2 Apr (EFE) -- Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today overcame his first government crisis by appointing new Interior and Industry and Energy ministers and by creating a tourism ministry. The cabinet resigned last Monday en bloc after an interparty agreement was signed between the ruling Colorado Party, and the opposition National Party and the Broad Front.

Both opposition political parties refused the government's invitation to join the cabinet, but they signed a congress agreement to approve about 40 laws related to the economic and social development of the country.

Sanguinetti accepted the resignation of Interior Minister Carlos Manini Rios and named in his place Antonio Marchesano, former president of the chamber of deputies. The president also replaced Industry Minister Carlos Piran with Jorge Presno, a lawyer who was industry minister in 1973 but who resigned on 27 June of the same year when the coup d'etat took place. The new Uruguayan cabinet, which has had its first reshuffle 13 months after the restoration of democracy, is comprised of the following persons:

Minister of agriculture and fishing: Roberto Vazquez Platero.
Minister of national defense: Juan Vicente Chiarino
Minister of economy and finance: Ricardo Zerbino
Minister of industry and energy: Jorge Presno
Minister of interior: Antonio Marchesano
Minister of labor and social welfare: Hugo Fernandez Faingold
Minister of transportation and public works: Jorge Sanguinetti
Minister of education and culture: Adela Reta
Minister of foreign affairs: Enrique Iglesias
Minister of public health: Raul Ugarte
Minister of tourism: Alfredo Silvera Lima

PARTIES SIGN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT

PY020031 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2154 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Apr (EFE) -- The leaders of the Uruguayan political parties today signed a congressional agreement to promote the country's economic and social development. The document, the result of several months of negotiations among the Colorado Party, the ruling party, the Blanco Party, the leading opposition party, the left-wing coalition Broad Front, and the Christian socialist Civic Union party elaborates on the 40 laws and 100 governmental resolutions that will be approved to promote the country's medium- and long-term development. The agreement underwent some last-minute changes after the negotiators consulted the executive boards of each party.

The opposition leaders said that "the agreement lacks the expected depth," but that it will permit the activation of legislative activities. The parties committed themselves in the document to continue searching for new formulas for reaching a consensus. After the agreement was signed, President Julio Maria Sanguinetti held meetings to reshuffle his cabinet. The cabinet ministers resigned en masse on Monday to facilitate the formation of a new cabinet. Reliable sources have stated that the president would replace only two ministers and that a third would take over the newly-created Communications and Tourism Ministry, which was established in the agreement.

ENERGY MINISTER CONFIDENT ABOUT OPEC AGREEMENT

PA021922 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Despite the intense crisis affecting OPEC, Venezuela is confident that possible agreements on the production ceilings will be achieved in the next meeting on 15 April, Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, Venezuelan energy and mines minister and OPEC president, has said.

The fall in petroleum prices has led to uncertainty in the country, and there are even sectors who place all the blame on the current administration. The energy and mines minister has categorically rejected such a position, staging that President Lusinchi's government has had to pay a foreign debt that was not its own and that the petroleum crisis comes from previous years.

[Begin recording] The decision to take the prices to $36 was my decision. It was a decision adopted by Venezuela under the Jaime Lusinchi government. It was a decision of previous administrations. Those have been the factors in this situation. There have been additional factors such as the behavior of OPEC members. One does not know the reason, but one could state, even though one does not want to say so, that it might be due to political motives. [end recording]

Regarding an OPEC minister's request in the last assembly for the removal of Hernandez Grisanti as president of the organization, the energy and mines minister said that these were maneuvers that unfortunately are directed from Venezuela and that are of great concern.

[Begin recording, in progress] ...Venezuelan was on Sunday, the 16th, when the conference opened in Geneva and he was in contact with OPEC ministers. I say this very responsibly. I think it is absurd to be prowling around the conference, interfering with Venezuela's official representation. [end recording]

AD Gives Vote of Confidence

PA030018 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and CEN [National Executive Committee] members of the Democractic Action Party [AD] met today at La Casona and learned about the negotiations carried out by Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti with OPEC. Not until Friday, however, will the national government fix its position and outline its strategy regarding the resumption of the OPEC conference slated for 15 April.

During the AD meeting, the oil movement's crisis was reviewed and Minister Hernandez was given a vote of confidence. His representation was regarded as patriotic and in accordance with Venezuela's economic interests. Opposition spokesmen have criticized his efforts, AD Secretary General Manuel Penalver said.

[Begin recording] The difficulties in OPEC caused by the oil price drop are serious. We feel, however, that this situation will be overcome. The AD government and our Companero Hernandez Grisanti, current OPEC president, will make all possible efforts so that this situation can be solved. [end recording]

Minutes later Minister Hernandez, leading speaker during the meeting, discussed some newspapers' concern over the announcement that certain countries, such as the United States and the United Arab Emirates, had foretold a crude oil price drop, a fact most worrisome in moments of energy crisis, such as the current one. He said that certain leading figures in the oil world have expressed their personal views and that no one can foretell the oil price levels at a given time. Because of this, it is urgent, now more than ever, to reach an agreement to return the situation to normal in OPEC. Venezuela, in turn, is aware of the crisis, yet feels optimistic regarding the future.

[Begin recording] It is evident that if oil prices drop to a very low level and remain there throughout the year, the country will face problems. We must make a joint effort with the resources we have at hand in other fields so that our country suffers as little as possible. Nevertheless, a country that depends to such an extent on such a revenue will surely have to make some sacrifice when its main financial and fiscal source of revenue has been affected by a market situation such as the one we are experiencing. [end recording]

During this week the energy and mines minister will meet with President Lusinchi to further establish Venezuela's position at the next OPEC ministers' meeting. He will then report to the AD's CEN about the results of the meeting.

FISHING AGREEMENT WITH TRINIDAD-TOBAGO RATIFIED

FL012356 Bridgetown CANA in English 2337 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 1, CANA -- The Venezuelan Congress today ratified a fishing agreement signed with Trinidad and Tobago last November, the government here said.

Under the agreement, fishermen of the two countries have the right to use areas of their territorial waters.

They must also offer 50 per cent of their catch to the other nation.

Trinidad and Tobago External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir said tonight that the agreement will enter force as soon as the exchange of diplomatic notes takes place.

Last week, under provisional agreement by the Venezuelan authorities, local fishermen received 50 of the 60 permits provided for use of the Venezuelan waters.

BRIEFS

PROVEN OIL RESERVES -- Venezuela's proven oil reserves amount to 29 billion barrels. This is an 11-billion-barrel increase over the amount in 1976, when the industry was nationalized. Carlos Vogeler Rincones, a member of the Petroven [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] directorate, has reported that this increase was possible due to the intense exploration that was carried out by the national petroleum industry. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p D1 PA]

NAVY SECRETARY ON READINESS, U.S. RECOGNITION

PA021955 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 26 Mar 86 p 5

[By Rodrigo Huerta]

[Text] Acapulco, Gro., 25 Mar -- Navy Secretary Admiral Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega has said that "Mexico does not expect an attack," but he explained that if necessary the Mexican armada is prepared to defend the nation's integrity. The Navy secretary reviewed the troops of the 18th Naval Military Zone, headed by Rear Admiral Rodrigo del Peon Alvarez.

Meanwhile, Gomez Ortega said that there are problems in getting the United States to recognize Mexico's 200 miles of territorial waters, although they have been internationally recognized. Gomez Ortega said that international drug trafficking has developed "in a terrible manner" by air, sea, and land, and it is necessary, he said, to combat like a "cancer." He said that the armada has carried out intense vigilance in the Caribbean zone, the Yucatan Channel, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Gomez Ortega denied that Mexican political and financial personalities are involve in drug trafficking. "There is no such thing, and it is objectionable to have our officials referred to in that manner," he added.

Finally, he said that despite the economic crisis the country is facing, "the social and political sectors have not been affected because the people are united around President Miguel de la Madrid."

EDITORIAL BACKS NICARAGUA ON BORDER PROBLEM

PA021952 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 31 Mar 86 p 6A

[Editorial: "The Sandinists' Offer"]

[Text] In Washington the obstacles to channelling financial aid to the anti-Sandinist mercenaries operating out of Honduras are being removed with difficulty. In Nicaragua, President Daniel Ortega has expressed his willingness to enter into talks with Ronald Reagan -- "the chief of the contras" -- and even to reach an agreement on the withdrawal of foreign advisers from Central America.

In effect, the Sandinist leader's statement is a new warning regarding the illicit nature of the counterrevolutionary forces which are staffed largely by former Somozist guardsmen and his refusal to enter into dialogue with them. He offers in exchange to hold talks with the United States, aware that that country has made the resumption of political and diplomatic efforts with Managua conditional on its recognition of the contras as a legitimate opposition force.

In the meantime, military tension in the area is growing. Daniel Ortega has pointed understandably to new elements of concern: the presence of U.S. advisers, the utilization of U.S. helicopters, and efforts to involve Honduras in a direct confrontation with Nicaragua. By repeating his opinion that the move is in effect a "Vietnamization" of the Central American conflict, he also makes the possible outcome of the recent developments very clear.

Ortega insists he is not lying. There have been clashes between the Sandinists and contras for years, and all have taken place in the area bordering with Honduras.

The difference is that this time the problem arose as the U.S. Congress was ready to vote on aid for the mercenaries, and it was used as a propaganda ploy, Ortega maintains. Honduras' ambiguity thus far seems to prove him right.

SOVIET DELEGATION TO PROMOTE NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

FL030202 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2350 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Avgust Voss, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, arrived today to participate in the 75th interparliamentary meeting.

Voss said his country will promote an end to nuclear weapons at the meeting. He said the Soviet Union's position is to continue the nuclear moratorium even though the deadline was 31 March and the United States intends to continue nuclear testing. Voss said the Soviet Union will propose a new option to the current U.S. Administration to discuss nuclear disarmament and preserve humanity.

In reference to the conflict between Libya and the United States, the Soviet diplomat said this confrontation is a pretext for the U.S. Government to punish Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Finally, Voss said that every country wants an end to the arms race and the Soviet Union will maintain its position on a nuclear moratorium until U.S. President Ronald Reagan demonstrates a reasonable attitude to preserve peace.

OIL CRISIS, RECESSION AFFECT BALANCE OF TRADE

PA021355 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 29 Mar 86 pp 1, 13

[By Luis Acevedo Pesquera]

[Text] The surplus in Mexico's balance of trade dropped 35 percent as a result of the "delay in the adjustment of oil prices," and the policy of recession which, despite its positive effect of reducing imports by 4 percent, also arrested industrial output.

This is stated in a report issued by the Mexican Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development and the Bank of Mexico which adds that although in January Mexico's trade balance showed a surplus of $438 million, the difference between foreign exchange revenues and expenditure is slim, estimating that a "substantial reduction in the balance of trade surplus predicted for 1986 -- $8.5 billion -- will continue to take place. [quotation marks as published]

According to official data on foreign trade activities in January, Mexican exports totaled $1.531 billion, a 16 percent reduction, while imports were $1.92 billion, the lowest level recorded over the past several months.

The fall on exports was mainly due to the decrease in the volume and price of crude, the sales of which decreased 32 percent, totaling only $736 million. The sale of oil by-products also dropped 44 percent, for a total of $62 million. However, in contrast to this "terrible decrease in revenues" from the oil sector, non-oil exports increased 25 percent, up from the $585 million obtained in 1985 to $733 million, partially compensating for the drop in foreign exchange revenue.

Financing imports with non-oil exports rose from 51 percent in January 1985 to 67 percent in the same month of this year. This was largely the result of the policy of recession which has placed maximum controls on the domestic market.

The Commerce Secretariat's report indicates that as a result of the oil market's chaotic situation, prices have dropped, "causing serious upsets to the country's balance of trade position."

In addition, it adds, "the delay in adjusting the prices of Mexico's principal export product resulted in a failure to place a portion of our oil exports on the market in January, further affecting the fall of foreign exchange revenues."

Non-oil exports, according to various areas of activity, recorded their highest increase in the primary sector, which increased 59 percent relative to January 1985 for a total of $202 million. Within this sector, the manufacturing sector rose 5 percent, from $510 million to $536 million. The only non-oil sector that recorded lower export rates was mining, decreasing from $34 million to $29 million, a 15 percent rate variation.

In this context, the products that most helped maintain a positive balance of trade in the primary sector were coffee, the value of which rose 131 percent, followed by tomatoes, vegetables, cattle, and cotton. The price of vegetables decreased 19 percent in January.

In the mining sector, the main foreign sales were sulphur, unprocessed copper, gypsum, feldspar, and mineral zinc. The price of gypsum rose 188, while copper prices dropped 58 percent.

In the manufacturing sector, the largest share of foreign exchange revenue came from automobile engine sales, frozen shrimp, automobile spare parts, silver ingots, and polycarboxylics.

With regard to imports, which in January totalled $1.92 billion, the report by the Commerce Secretariat and the Bank of Mexico indicates that the largest foreign exchange drain was recorded by the manufacturing sector, which made purchases for $992 million, 81 percent of all foreign purchases.

In the primary sector, purchases were $77 million, 7 percent of total imports. The mining sector made purchases for $14 million, 2 percent of the total. Compared with January 1985, the manufacturing sector grew 2 percent, while the primary sector's activities decreased 48 percent. Mining decreased 24 percent.

The products most imported in January for use by the primary sector were corn, cattle, skins and unprocessed leather, rubber, and seeds.

In the mining sector the major items purchased were phosphorite, calcium phosphate, non-ferrous metals, siliceous sands, solid fuels, and pewter minerals.

Outstanding in the manufacturing sector were butane and liquid purchases -- totaling $43.5 million -- material to assemble automobiles, parts and spare parts for electrical installations, data processing machines, and mixtures for industrial use.

Breaking goods down into their different classifications, consumer goods imports rose 3 percent for a total of $86 million; import of intermediate goods dropped 12 percent for a total of $726 million, and capital goods imports increased to $280 million, a 21 percent hike from last year. The share of each of these areas of imports was 8 percent for consumer goods; 66 percent for intermediate goods, and 26 percent for capital goods.

The balance of trade situation has continuously deteriorated since 1983, when it reached $13.8 billion, after recording a total of $6.8 [as published] billion in 1982. In 1984 it was $12.8 billion, and in 1985 it was $8 billion. This represents a reduction of 40 percent. Our authorities estimate the surplus in the trade balance will continue its downward trend in 1986.

Total Trade Balance (in millions of dollars)

	1984	1985	1986 January	variation percentage 85/84	86/85
Exports 1	2,201.1	1,813.3	1,530.8	-17.6	- 15.6
Imports 2	643.0	1,143.0	1,093.4	77.8	- 4.4
Balance	1,558.1	670.3	438.4	- 57.0	- 34.6

1. Does not include reevaluations and excludes assembly plants
2. Does not include freight and insurance

Source: Prepared by the Tariffs Directorate of the Secretariat of Commerce and Trade Development, with data of the Bank of Mexico

S&T COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH PANAMA SIGNED

FL021847 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1810 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Governments of the Republic of Panama and Mexico have signed a scientific and technical cooperation agreement aimed at achieving greater social and economic development for the two countries. The Foreign Secretariat announced this through a decree which appeared today in the Official Gazette. The two countries agreed to cooperate in the areas of information, scholarships for degrees and specialization, materials and equipment, as well as in joint projects of scientific and technological development, and in organizing seminars, conferences and expositions. Likewise, a joint commission of scientific and technological cooperation between Mexico and Panama was established. The commission will meet every 2 years to discuss the appropriate actions. For Mexico, the Foreign Secretariat will be responsible for carrying out the cooperation and in Panama it will be the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy.

AMBASSADOR TO UN ON NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, OIL

FL021142 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0408 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 1 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico will struggle for a new international economic order inasmuch as it believes it is the only way to solve the financial problems problems affecting poor nations, Mario Moya Palencia, our country's ambassador to the United Nations, stressed today. Upon arrival here from New York, the Mexican ambassador said the fall of oil prices places developing countries in a serious situation; that is, facing a world economic crisis and the impossibility of resolving their financial commitments. For this reason, he stressed, the establishment of a new world economic order which will make possible a better development of the so-called Third World nations can no longer be delayed. Speaking about the oil situation in Mexico, Moya Palencia stated that despite the fall of oil prices throughout the world, the oil industry is still profitable for Mexico because production costs are low. Likewise, he rejected the possibility that the price of oil will drop to $5 per barrel as has been predicted by Kuwait.

AGREEMENT ENDS MONTH-LONG DOCTORS' STRIKE

PA021821 Panama City Circuito PRC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen: An agreement was signed a few minutes ago at the El Panama Hotel ending the doctors' strike. Medical services will be normal as of tomorrow.

This is a last-minute report to the effect that the national government and the doctors have reached a joint agreement settling the national doctors' strike that lasted over 30 days. As of tomorrow, all doctors will be going back to work.

DELVALLE MEETS WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL IN U.S.

PA292054 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today to discuss the Central American situation and the Latin American foreign debt, a UN spokesman has reported.

Delvalle is making his first visit to the United Nations, and he took advantage of the occasion to exchange opinions with the secretary general on the Contadora Group's activities.

President Delvalle should be returning to Panama this weekend.

COSTA RICA

EDITORIAL PRAISES REAGAN'S PERSEVERANCE

PA021318 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 10

[Editorial: "Reagan Does Not Give Up"]

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives has again stopped the initiatives of President Reagan on the Sandinist conflict.

A setback such as this could have made other rulers give up their democratic efforts. After all, lack of understanding is always discouraging. But President Reagan is not the kind of man who is easily cowed.

The U.S. President believes that his word and his perseverance can be used as tools to win over the indifference of his people toward the tragedies being endured by friendly nations. His opinion is not groundless. Grenada, Haiti, and the Philippines are clear and recent evidence of this.

Both rightist and leftist dictatorships have had to yield in the face of the democratic thrust that Ronald Reagan has insisted on as part of the international behavior of the United States. It is evident that the President is a man who wants to demonstrate that his country's international leadership aims at achieving the liberty of nations and not U.S. supremacy in an hegemonic struggle. Reagan apparently believes that tyrants, regardless of whether they are communists or friends of the United States, must fall.

President Reagan's position and perseverance have done much harm to the Nicaraguan dictators, but more harm has been caused by the democratic push that the U.S. President has turned into a characteristic of his nation.

The alleged U.S. aggression and the clear U.S. animosity toward the Managua regime are not just a result of the East-West struggle. The U.S. animosity is a product of a democratic vocation that leads to solidarity with a people who, like the Nicaraguan people, have been betrayed by a revolution and live under the oppression of a dictatorship.

Acting according to his position, President Reagan has said that he is not giving up. His strategy now is to have the U.S. Senate approve his request for $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, even if this aid is conditioned to a 90-day waiting period during which an attempt for a peaceful solution should be made before the aid can be distributed. If he wins in the Senate, the door will be open for a reconsideration, by the House in mid-April.

The Sandinist strategy in Nicaragua is in line with a plan of world communism. While they gain time for domestic repression to strengthen the dictatorship, the commanders speak of peaceful solutions. Facts, however, have shown that their decision is against such a solution. They speak empty words.

So long as the pressure exerted by democratic countries remains empty words, so too will the commanders be able to continue exerting their repression and consolidating the first communist regime in continental America.

Since President Reagan's defeat [in the House] was narrow, with 222 votes against and 210 in favor, there is still hope that finally the U.S. people will soon understand their obligations to the Nicaraguan people and their liberation.

EL SALVADOR

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR ON AREA ISSUES, CONTRA AID

PA021300 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Interview with Francisco Tenorio Mora, Nicaraguan ambassador to El Salvador, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Tell us, Mr Mora, what is Nicaragua's view of the recently approved -- and much publicized -- $100 million appropriation by the U.S. Congress? [as heard]

[Tenorio] We think that the U.S. Congress seems inclined to support President Reagan's warmongering policy. The problem is not the approval of the $100 million; we think this involves a more tense and critical situation: the involvement of U.S. troops and means to support the counterrevolutionary forces in Honduras, as we saw during Holy Week.

[Reporter] Please tell us what reaction has Nicaragua observed in the other nations of the world concerning this phenomenon of the $100 million appropriation?

[Tenorio] Well, we have seen a Latin-Americanist attitude; all the Latin American countries oppose and reject the aid to the counterrevolution. We have seen how the nonaligned countries have condemned the Reagan administration's support to the counterrevolution. Even the U.S. people have rejected the U.S. maneuvers to directly support the counterrevolution, because this will eventually lead to direct involvement by the United States with U.S. troops in the Central American region. This would provoke a conflict of great proportions, and even though Nicaragua has exerted itself in the search for peace and a negotiated solution, it is also ready to face any military situation that may arise.

[Reporter] What is Nicaragua's view of the efforts of the Contadora Group so far? Have these efforts had any influence on the situation of war which prevails in Nicaragua?

[Tenorio] Contadora is a forum that was created with the intention of avoiding a confrontation between countries in the Central American area and also to avoid an even more demaging [sancionamiento] situation. Contadora has really prevented a war and maintained pressure on the United States. Contadora has a real Latin-Americanist position concerning the situation prevailing in Central America. We think that Contadora has proved its worth with the normalization of diplomatic relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica and the creation of an investigation and control commission for the border zones. This was achieved within the framework of Contadora; consequently, this is a firm and fundamental step taken by Contadora despite the boycott, despite pressures exerted by the United States. The Contadora continues to be the alternative and the means to achieve peace and a negotiated solution in Central America. Therefore, we must continue to support this forum.

[Reporter] What is the Nicaraguan people's opinion about the upcoming meeting between the presidents of Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala -- which will be held in this last country and to which Nicaragua has not been invited?

[Tenorio] The Nicaraguan people are clearly aware that all this ... [changes thought] that the omission [of an invitation] to Nicaragua was due to a U.S. maneuver to exert pressure so Nicaragua does not come to Guatemala to attend the meeting -- because this would be an admission of President Ortega's legitimacy. The fact that Nicaragua is being excluded from the meeting means that the United States .... [changes thought] It means that they will not admit that President Ortega was legitimately elected by the people's vote in free elections in Nicaragua. Therefore they will keep Nicaragua out of the meeting in Guatemala as long as they can, because then they will be able to argue that the elections in Nicaragua are not valid and that President Ortega is simply a dictator in Nicaragua -- as they have always stated. However, the most important thing in this case is that the international community and the Central American peoples -- particularly the Nicaraguan people -- are fully convinced and aware of the United States' maneuvers. We are politically and militarily prepared to counter this and, although no one wants to reach the extreme of turning the Central American region into another Vietnam, the Nicaraguan people are aware that they will defend the revolution, rights, sovereignty, and -- above all -- the honor of being Latin Americans and, basically, Central Americans.

DEPUTY SAYS DIALOGUE SHOULD BE MULTIPARTISAN

PA030306 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 25 Mar 86 pp 2, 15

[Text] "Some FDR-FMLN elements can practice buddyism [ser mischeros], but I am my own man," Deputy Rene Fortin Magana has told DIARIO LATINO.

"I know that within their demands regarding constitutional issues, only a few can be granted," Fortin Magana added.

According to Fortin Magana, a former member of Democratic Action, AD, the rebels will have only a small share in the government, because the Constitution places obstacles such as banning them from joining the Salvadoran Army.

Fortin Magana said that President Duarte can no longer speak on behalf of the Salvadoran people but only in his own name, because he had sufficient opportunities to reach an agreement but failed to do so. He has no choice but to allow other sectors representing the people to do their part; in fact, Duarte does not even represent the entire Christian Democratic Party, Fortin Magana said defiantly.

"On my part, I could not be an errand boy for my buddies, because I have my own convictions and lifestyle, and they have their own views," Fortin Magana pointed out.

He said that rebels planning to come to El Salvador to participate in talks with Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas can do just that; however, if they have pending problems with the law, that is another matter.

"A dialogue must be permanently open, but not as a partisan activity involving only the government and the FDR; thus far the government has limited itself; it has revolved around the Christian Democratic Party.

"I believe that the government and Duarte himself have given up representativity. Thus, from now on the dialogue should be a multipartisan problem, Fortin Magana concluded. [quotation marks as published]

ARMED FORCES CONTINUE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS

PA020441 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 1 Apr 86 pp 2, 11

[Text] Operations "Phoenix" and "Lieutenant Ricardo Chavez Carreno" continue on Guazapa Hill and in Chalatenango Department, respectively. Meanwhile, the search and comb operations continue in the Departments of Morazan, San Miguel, La Union, Usulutan, San Vicente, and Cuscatlan and in other areas.

The Armed Forces have continued with operation "Phoenix" on Guazapa Hill and throughout the northern part of San Salvador Department for more than 2 months. Moreover, the Armed Forces have extended their counterinsurgency activities to Suchitoto city, the rural areas of this jurisdiction, Suchitlan Lake, and other areas.

This counterinsurgency military operation is regarded as one of the most successful because the Armed Forces have ended the myth that terrorists could not be forced to withdraw. These have been the comments by Armed Forces spokesmen who have given extensive reports on the operations for the search, location, and destruction of terrorist hideouts.

Regarding operation "Lieutenant Ricardo Chavez Carrero," we were told that this is another of the most important strategies the Armed Forces have had in the past few months.

The rebel groups that were operating with more intensity in southern Chalatenango Department up to the limits of San Salvador Department have been pushed north.

According to the Armed Forces intelligence reports, the rebel groups are trying to regroup in some areas of the country.

In view of this possibility, Army troops are in constant pursuit of subversives' hideouts to foil their plans. The Armed Forces are constantly making appeals to the people in general to report the presence of subversives or suspects.

FMLN CLAIMS 573 ARMY CASUALTIES IN MARCH

PA021337 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] During the month of March we inflicted 573 casualties on Duarte's Army. Of these, 307 were with mines, either against infantry or armored personnel carriers. We repeat, we inflicted 573 casualties on the enemy in March using various types of mines. The 307 mine casualties represent 53 percent of all the casualties inflicted. The total 573 casualties include 5 lieutenants, 2 sublieutenants, 2 lieutenant cadets, 12 sergeants, 2 warrant officers, 11 corporals, 3 radio operators, and a [words indistinct] technician.

During the month of March we carried out nine ambushes that caused 59 casualties. Also during the month of March a helicopter was damaged and six military trucks were destroyed. These are the weapons seized from the enemy in March: 58 rifles, an M-79 grenade launcher, 8 handguns, 15,600 rounds of ammunition, 240 ammunition magazines, 11 grenades of various types and a TRC-77 military radio communications set.

During the month of March, the most important sabotage actions against the Duarte government's war economy included a successful national traffic stoppage that lasted 6 days and caused about $9 million dollars in direct losses to the government's war economy. Facilities on 34 coffee farms and 606 manzanas of planted coffee were sabotaged. These 34 coffee farms belonged to wealthy landowners who refused to pay the FMLN-set salary rates during the last coffee harvest. In addition, an energy sut-station in Santa Anita, Usulutan Department and about 150 poles and pylons were destroyed.

Many actions took place in San Salvador and its suburbs. The census and Statistics General Directorate was sabotaged right in downtown San Salvador in broad daylight. Also, four telephone connection boxes [Cajas distribuidoras] were sabotaged in the capital. Other actions occurred in San Salvador and its suburbs, such as San Ramon, Mejicanos, Ayutuxtepeque, Cuscatancingo, and others. An important blow was dealt to the puppet Army in Veracruz in Chalatenango. Also in this department, the Army was worn down. An ambush was sprung in Atiquizaya, Ahuachapan Department, in the country's west. This has been our westernmost ambush so far. Attrition operations against the puppet Army were also executed in Santa Ana Department.

GUATEMALA

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NAMED OAS AMBASSADOR

PA030311 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The Government has appointed former Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran as Guatemala's ambassador to the OAS.

Recently Rodolfo Lobos Zamora -- a former deputy head of state -- was appointed Guatemala's ambassador to Panama.

Andrade Diaz-Duran left for Washington today, Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez has reported.

[Begin recording] Let me tell you what has happened. It happens that the Presidency of the OAS rotates. It is rotated among all the member-countries. Guatemala's turn in the Presidency begins on 1 April. President Cerezo Arevalo decided to send Fernando Andrade as Guatemala's ambassador to the OAS because of the situation in Central America, because the situation could deteriorate, and because it is good that a Central American country has the Presidency of the OAS. For this reason the president decided to put there people with some experience, and this is why the president sent Andrade today as ambassador to the OAS. He is going to assume the Presidency to which Guatemala is entitled at the OAS.

I believe that Andrade will not be there as ambassador very long, maybe 4 or 5 months -- for the duration of the Presidency and for the time he will need for farewell purposes. [end recording]

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS 'PRESSURE" FOR WAR WITH NICARAGUA

PA021930 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1958 GMT 2 Apr 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 2 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government admitted today that it is being pressured by "interested parties" into provoking a war against Nicaragua.

The government of Jose Azcona Hoyo "is aware of pressure by interested parties to spur an armed conflict with Nicaragua, which is the reason it is acting cautiously and with moderation." This was stated in a communique issued by the Foreign Secretariat reporting on the notes exchanged with the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in connection with the confirmation of an incursion by Sandinist troops into Honduran territory.

"The Honduran Government," the note adds, "cannot leave the handling of the situation in foreign or inexpert hands because it is responsible for the well-being and safety of 4 million Hondurans who want to live in peace and democracy."

The Honduran Foreign Secretariat, however, did not identify the national or international parties interested in spurring a military conflict with Nicaragua.

The Honduran Armed Forces insist they have absolute control over the border area where they are clearing the area of any possible small Sandinist contingents that may have been left behind during the withdrawal operation from the national territory.

In addition, it was denied that the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary troops clashed with the Sandinists in Honduran territory or that they have sustained hundreds of casualties.

The Honduran Government's official stand is that there are no armed forces in its territory except for the National Army and that it does accept Nicaraguans and other Central Americans as refugees.

NOTES EXCHANGED WITH NICARAGUA ON BORDER RAID

PA030136 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Apr 86 p 11

[Press release issued by the Foreign Secretariat to publish notes exchanged by the Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments on border incidents; date and place not given]

[Text] Press Release:

The Foreign Relations Secretariat of the Republic of Honduras has seen fit to publish the notes exchanged by the Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments as the result of the recent raid by Sandinist regime members into Honduran territory, a fact duly confirmed and which the Nicaraguan regime denies. The Honduran Government acts soberly and calmly, although it is aware of the demand of some sectors that want an armed conflict with Nicaragua. The Honduran Government cannot leave this situation in foreign or inexperienced hands, because the government is responsible for the welfare and security of 4 million Hondurans who want to live in peace and democracy.

These are the notes mentioned.

Mr Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Nicaraguan foreign minister, Managua, Nicaragua.

Mr Minister: I hereby address Your Excellency to tell you that my government has certain and duly confirmed reports that members of the EPS have raided Honduran territory through the eastern border area, in Olancho Department. We have learned that these members have fired artillery shells and other weapons on Honduran territory. The actions I refer to took place last week and this week. In anticipation of an increase in the armed actions the EPS has unleashed against Honduran territory, the government of the Republic has deployed forces to the sector mentioned, with instructions to protect the population and repel the Nicaraguan troops.

On reporting to Your Excellency about this, the Honduran Government urges the Nicaraguan Government to immediately withdraw the EPS troops from Honduran territory to prevent confrontations that could endanger peace between the two countries and jeopardize the regional pacification efforts sponsored by the Contadora Group. My government feels that the Nicaraguan Government has the unavoidable duty to honor this denunciation made in good faith and with the desire not to aggravate the crisis that Central America has been enduring since the second half of 1979 for reasons well familiar to us all. My government hopes that the Nicaraguan Government will take the pertinent corrective measures and will act in the future in such a manner that the events reported will not be repeated. Yours very truly,

Carlos Lopez Contreras, Honduran foreign secretary
Tegucigalpa, 25 March 1986

Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Republic of Honduras.
No 0168-86
Tegucigalpa, 26 March 1986
Mr Minister:

We have received your note dated today stating that your government has "certain and duly confirmed reports" that members of our Army allegedly raided Honduran territory through Olancho Department. Mr Minister, your letter has reached us at the time when the U.S. Government is bent on a historical campaign against Nicaragua with the clear purpose of portraying Nicaragua as an aggressor country. In this way, the Reagan administration hopes to secure the U.S. Congress' approval of a request for $100 million more to continue murdering our people from CIA mercenary bases in Honduran territory. Ironically, it is those who attack our people, violate our sovereignty, plant mines in our ports, shy away from the judgment at the International Court of Justice and publicly request funds for more terrorism in Nicaragua who suddenly want to pose as victims.

In this framework of warmongering hysteria of the current U.S. Government, we cannot but stress your letter's calm and responsible tone. On our part, we can assure you that at no time have the strict behavior standards of our Army been changed according to which they must refrain from carrying out raids into Honduran territory, however limited and justified these raids might be, when it comes to confronting the mercenary forces who sow terror in our people. I can assure you that no aggression has occurred in Honduran territory and that our troops are being oriented by the highest military authorities in the area for our troops to abide by our traditional standards of behavior. Finally, Mr Minister, in view of the U. S. insistent policy of introducing more and more tension in the relations between our two nations, Nicaragua has officially asked the Contadora and Support Groups to install immediately a supervision and control commission at the common border so that this commission can see in situ that it is the mercenary army, financed by the United States, that violates Honduras' and Nicaragua's sovereignty and that at no time do our forces constitute a threat to Honduran sovereignty.

Yours very truly,
Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Nicaraguan foreign minister
Danilo Abu Vivas, Nicaraguan ambassador
Tegucigalpa, 1 April 1986
Information and Press Directorate; Honduran Foreign Secretariat

ARMY SOURCE 'CONFIRMED' FMLN 28 MARCH INCURSION

PA021833 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Apr 86

[By Jose Domingo Flores]

[Text] The scoop by this station, the most important station in the country, at noon yesterday has been confirmed. This morning we received a telephone call from an official source of the Honduran Army stating that FMLN guerrillas entered Honduras as far as the area of Los Planes located between Mapulaca and Virginia in Lempira Department. It has been confirmed that the guerrillas stayed approximately 7 hours. During that time, the residents got in touch with the Honduran Army, and troops immediately went there. When the guerrillas learned of the arrival of the troops, they immediately withdrew. There were no clashes because the guerrillas were afraid that they would be hit hard by Honduran Army. In this way, HRN [Voz de Honduras Network] confirms the report about the presence of the FMLN guerrillas in Honduran territory for approximately 7 hours in the area of Los Planes. There were no clashes or casualties between the Honduran troops and the Salvadoran guerrillas. It was confirmed that the Salvadoran guerrillas did enter Honduran territory.

This coincides with what is taking place on the border with Nicaragua. This clearly shows that efforts are being made to carry out a general operation against Honduran territory by the Salvadoran guerrillas and the Nicaraguan EPS. The incursion by FMLN guerrillas took place on Friday.

It has been reported that sometime today the Public Relations Office of the Armed Forces will disclose details of the events on Friday in the area of Los Planes, Lempira Department.

OFFICER ON SANDINIST CLASHES, FMLN INCURSION

PA031317 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Report on interview with Major Jorge Alberto Arguello by reporter Miriam Mercado, date and place not given]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Mercado] It has been reported, Major, that during the past few hours there have been clashes on the eastern border with Nicaragua, specifically in El Paraiso. Could you tell us if Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Carvajal, commander of Task Force 17, is still in Capire, or was he there temporarily?

[Arguello] Well, Miriam, Task Force 17 in Capire is continuing its operation there because the situation has been controlled, but during the past few hours we have confirmed that there have been clashes between Sandinist patrols and Honduran patrols. However, it is also important to inform the Honduran people that they must have confidence in us, that the situation is under control because, as Lt Col Carvajal said on one occasion, the situation favors us to a great extent, and all of the Sandinist patrols are being controlled.

[Mercado] On Wednesday you said that there were Sandinist prisoners. When will they be presented? Also, do you have FMLN prisoners and when will they be presented by the Armed Forces?

[Arguello] In response to the first question, when the time is right the prisoners will be presented to the national and international press. If we capture more prisoners of war, who are also proof of Sandinist penetration in our country, we will present them. [end recording]

[Mercado] This was Major Jose Alberto Arguello, Honduran Armed Forces spokesman, confirming that there are more prisoners and that Task Force 17 troops headed by Commander Danilo Carvajal Molina are still on the border with Nicaragua in El Paraiso Department. Maj Arguello also confirmed that there are no FMLN prisoners of war detained in Honduras. He also says that the border with El Salvador is well guarded.

[Begin recording] [Arguello] Regarding the situation we experienced in Los Planes village, it has been confirmed that this village was occupied by FMLN subversives, in Mapula jurisdiction, Lempira Department. It is also important to confirm that the presence of the Honduran Armed Forces forced the subversives to withdraw to their territory.

As I said today at noon on Radio America, this entire situation that has emerged during the past few days, say from 13 March, and the situation of the subversives on the border with El Salvador is caused by one thing. It is the international communist and Sandinist strategy to try to destabilize internal order, the democratic system of the government established in our country, and of course to subvert the tranquillity and peace we enjoy in Honduras. The Honduran people can be sure that its Armed Forces will do everything in their power to maintain our country's tranquillity and, of course, to eliminate these irregularities and situations that damage Honduras' imperial, territorial sovereignty.

[Mercado] Finally, Major, my last question. Are there FMLN prisoners?

[Arguello] I am not aware of any FMLN prisoners thus far. [end recording]

EDITORIAL ON NEED FOR FOREIGN POLICY CHANGE

PA021636 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 6

[Editorial: "The Government Must Review Its Policy on Nicaragua"]

[Text] In light of the recent events on the border with Nicaragua and the subsequent international uproar, it is clear that there is a break between Honduras' foreign policy on Nicaragua and international law.

The matter is extremely delicate and has grave implications for the future. Therefore, the Azcona government must carefully review that policy in view of the threats to our vital interests and the security of the Honduran state.

The very dramatic border incidents due to the constant aggression carried out from our territory by the U.S.-financed and directed contras are turning Honduras into a springboard for a generalized war in Central America.

This Holy Week we have seen how easy it is to orchestrate a "casus belli" to unleash such a conflict. This seems to be the ulterior motive of the contra project which, as everyone knows, including the North Americans, is incapable of being successful against the EPS.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's latest remarks that the Honduran area on the border with Nicaragua is an "occupied territory" give legal form to something that could legitimize Nicaraguan actions in that territory with the argument of the right of self-defense.

Honduran officials who have the capacity to internationally compromise the Honduran state, including the foreign secretary and high-ranking military chiefs, have said that the Honduran Armed Forces do not have the capability to control our territory on the border with Nicaragua. With such statements they have tried to conceal the presence of the contras in our territory.

Also, the annexes to the Honduran-U.S. military treaty are not in force because they have not been approved by the National Congress as our constitution specifically establishes; such statements make totally illegal let us not say only the contra presence in our territory but any U.S. military presence that is permanent and above all linked to the Nicaraguan situation.

An article by Aaron Epstein in the important U.S. newspaper THE MIAMI HERALD reports the opinions of prominent U.S. international laws experts that unquestionably show the false position of the Honduran foreign policy concerning the incursions by the regular Sandinist forces.

For Professor Richard Lillich of the University of Virginia, Nicaragua's attitude "is exactly the same one as that adopted by United States when it went into Cambodia in 1970 and 1971." Professor William Thomas Mallison, director of the international law program of the George Washington University, said the same thing: "We argued that we could enter Cambodia because it was used as a privileged refuge and a base of operations to attack our forces in Vietnam."

More recently, this same principle was used by Israel to enter Lebanon and destroy PLO installations.

On that course we are obviously headed for a warlike escalation. If continued, no one will be able to stop it and it will mainly involve the Hondurans who in no way want to be involved in a war that is not ours.

On the same course, the Honduran Government and its Armed Forces are creating a humiliating and undignified spectable as they make evident to our own people and foreigners that we do not make our own decisions; that we cannot guarantee the security of the Honduran state and leave the field so that a foreign power will be in charge of the national defense.

An editorial in the Sunday [as published; editorial published on 31 March] issue of THE MIAMI HERALD concludes: "Now that the Senate has approved the contra aid, only the House can keep the administration off the slippery slope of military escalation. This disgraceful Honduran hypefest should only redouble the House's resolve to do that."

Look how low we have stooped!

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON ASYLUM SEEKERS

PA030005 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2325 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Communique issued by the Information and Press Office of the Honduran Foreign Secretariat on 2 April -- read by reporter Miriam Mercado]

[Text] In view of local and international news reports that seven persons have sought refuge in the Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa, the Foreign Secretariat hereby announces that there is no official report from the Mexican Embassy in Honduras listing the names of these persons.

On the other hand, since there is no persecution taking place against the persons seeking this diplomatic asylum and since the National Congress recently granted a broad amnesty to persons who have committed crimes considered political, the Honduran Government is of the opinion that there is no reason to seek asylum, and therefore there is no reason for issuing safe-conducts so that these persons may leave the country, because they have a perfect right to obtain a regular passport. In any event those at the Mexican Embassy can leave Honduran territory as simple travelers, without the adjective of political exiles.

KISAN REPORTS 6,000 MISKITOS FLEE NICARAGUA

PA020433 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1827 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Unity of the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast Peoples [KISAN] Indian rebel organization reported today that 6,000 Miskito Indians from the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast entered Honduras last week fleeing from the Sandinist regime in Managua.

Roger Herman, KISAN spokesman in Tegucigalpa, confirmed that the Miskitos "are fleeing from repression and the Sandinist stubborn attempt to eradicate their customs and to force them to enlist in the military service to fight against other Nicaraguans."

Herman said that the Sandinists arrived in the community of Bilwaskarma north of Puerto Cabezas, to recruit 75 youths, "but the population opposed the repressive measure, and as a result the Sandinists captured 15 and executed them later."

The Miskito spokesman pointed out that once KISAN forces learned about the situation they attacked the Sandinists, forced them to retreat, and caused many casualties, killing and wounding.

According to Herman, several Sandinist soldiers "posed as Red Cross agents and when several of our wounded approached a vehicle in which they could supposedly be tended, they were greeted with bullets; seven of them were killed."

The KISAN spokesman, KISAN meaning united Miskitos, told Honduran reporters that his organization has several bases in Zelaya Department to shelter 4,000 combatants.

He added: "Lately those bases have been attacked by Soviet MI-8 helicopters, and as a result, 27 were killed and others wounded, especially civilians living in the vicinity of those camps."

According to Herman, the continuous Sandinist bombings are the main cause for the exodus of the Miskitos. He claimed to have reports that 6,000 other people are awaiting the appropriate opportunity to seek refuge in Honduras.

The National Commission for Refugees in Honduras and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have neither confirmed nor denied the KISAN report.

Currently there are approximately 35,000 Nicaraguan Indians seeking refuge in Honduras, but only approximately 20,000 of them have sought the official status of refugees. The other 15,000 prefer to stay temporarily sheltered and return to Nicaragua as conditions in their communities warrant.

Roger Herman said that KISAN troops have severe logistics problems, but they manage to fight against the Sandinists with the weapons and ammunition seized from Sandinist casualties.

Commenting on the possibility that the United States might grant $100 million for Nicaraguan anti-Sandinist troops, Herman said: "We have never received U.S. aid to fight the Sandinists, however, we would welcome it should they decide to give us some."

NICARAGUA

EDITORIAL SEES REAGAN REPEATING VIETNAM ERROR

PA021945 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Vietnamization Under Way"]

[Text] President Daniel Ortega's statements that Reagan's Central American and anti-Nicaraguan policies are an effort to Vietnamize the conflict were never as close to the concept or reality than during the past few weeks. In hasty doses and in a desperate manner, Reagan has made us swallow the pill of war to cure American society of the Vietnam syndrome, which could turn out to be much worse than the sickness itself.

The sickness of imperialism, speaking not in a symbolic manner but in the most real language possible, has caused this people's war of independence, which threatens U.S. national security.

With this alteration of history, Reagan boosted his career by getting Congress involved in his stupid war against social progress, carried out with bayonets, cannons, and rockets. With this imperialist vision of the Central American situation, Reagan cannot see the results of the Yankee war against Vietnam as an experience that should be taken into account, but as a starting point toward revenge, forcing analogies between the two situations.

This is why the steps Reagan has taken against Nicaragua demonstrate with almost mathematical precision the repetition of errors seeking to promote the reinforcement of a military decision which, in Reagan's unhealthy opinion, was lacking in Vietnam, causing the U.S. to lose that war. Parallel to this are actions involving the U.S Government in a war that it cannot win with its mercenaries.

To do this, the United States took advantage of the defeat the mercenaries suffered last week in their own hideouts to promote the alarming campaign by reporting an alleged EPS invasion of Honduras, offering the Honduran Government $20 million, giving the mercenaries sophisticated weapons, and transporting Honduran troops to the southern border in U.S. military transport aircraft. In this manner military "advisers" in Honduras have already become more directly involved in the aggression, standing only a step away from total involvement.

Once the aggression reached that level, changes were made in the nature of the war Reagan has imposed on us since 1982, first with the "covert war" which took its name from the manner in which the Reagan administration sent its support to the mercenaries: through CIA organizations, and second with the "humanitarian aid" or "nonlethal" aid, which is the euphemism for the maintenance of the mercenary army. The continuation of the war under this cover-up was done because the Yankee government had not yet officially adopted the aggression, especially after Reagan's first attempt to involve Congress in the escalation of the war failed.

The third case has just been given by the Senate, which approved the $100 million, proposing a solution whereby $25 million would be given to the mercenaries immediately in the form of anti-aircraft weapons, "defense" war equipment, as well as continued logistic and "humanitarian" aid.

On the political order, the Senate decision -- which may be ratified by both houses on 15 April -- marked the transition toward the official Vietnamization of the conflict, which consists of:

A. Official Pentagon involvement in the conduct of the war against Nicaragua.

B. Open and official military training of the mercenaries by U.S. "advisers" who -- as the escalation of the aggression increases -- could be involved at any time in the war.

C. The Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, will again direct the operations of the faithful mercenaries and make efforts to provide them with operational capabilities to control territories and try to bring the war to the Pacific.

D. To condition the release of the remaining $75 million on the "surrender" of Nicaragua through "dialogues" with the mercenaries. This is only an excuse to officialize the release of all of the aid, as the Pentagon may consider advantageous.

Part of this process of Vietnamizing the Central American conflict is the pressure that the United States exerts on Honduras to become involved in the aggression against Nicaragua by mobilizing its own Army, not only lending its territory for the counter-revolutionaries' war operations, a phase unsuccessfully completed ever since the war of aggression began.

The imperialists have reached this extreme in their stubborn intention of destroying the Sandinist people's revolution, rejecting history's teachings and the clamor of the American people, who have somehow managed to influence the Senate's "yes," which was so closely attained by Reagan. This, even if the Senate is not convinced, has made it clear that there is only a slight margin of support for Reagan's plan to Vietnamize Central America.

The main reasons for his failure are the Nicaraguan people's resistance and their peace policies supported by the Latin American people.

ARCE REAFFIRMS WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH REAGAN

PA021654 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0423 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Santo Domingo 1 Apr (EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government is willing to talk with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in an effort to find peace, Sandinist leader Bayardo Arce Castano said tonight.

During a press conference he hosted at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Santo Domingo, Arce said that Reagan recognized he is a contra, and they [the Sandinists] recognize him as the chief of the contras and are therefore willing to talk with him.

He explained, however, that the Nicaraguan people are preparing for a possible direct U.S. invasion, because they have been the target of the anti-Sandinist aggression sponsored from Washington for the last 4 years.

On the other hand, he deems it is necessary to prevent the United States from invading Nicaragua and that peaceful solutions of understanding must be sought through international leaders and organizations. We must understand "we are not in the past century."

Arce is in the Dominican Republic heading his country's delegation to a meeting of the Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Socialist International, a meeting preparatory to the conference to be held in Peru 20-23 July.

NUNEZ TO HEAD GROUP TO GUATEMALA, MEXICO MEETINGS

PA021648 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] The delegation of the National Assembly headed by Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez leaves for Guatemala tomorrow to attend the extraordinary assembly of the Latin American Parliament on 3 to 5 April. Lhe conference, to be attended by presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, and deputies of the Latin American parliaments, will be held under the slogan: In defense of peace and democracy in Central America.

The Nicaraguan mission also includes Mauricio Diaz Davila, vice president of the parliament and secretary general of the Popular Social Christian Party; Dr Rafael Solis, first secretary of the assembly; (Edwin Yescas), representative of the Democratic Conservative Party; Ray Hooker of the FSLN; and Dr Yadira Centeno, legal adviser.

The delegation will also travel to the Mexican capital where it will attend the 75th conference of the IPU that will be held from 7 to 9 April.

OBANDO Y BRAVO CANCELS TRIP TO BRAZIL

PA021404 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Rio de Janeiro -- The expected visit to Brazil next week of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, archbishop of Managua, has been canceled, ecclesiastical sources reported today. The visit of Obando y Bravo, who has been accused of collaborating with the counterrevolutionary forces attacking his country from Honduras was considered inopportune because it would coincide with the 24th assembly of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB), most of whom do not sympathize with Obando y Bravo's pro-U.S. political activism.

CNBB sources announced that Cardinal Obandoy visit has been "indefinitely postponed," for fear that his presence, as guest of Dom Eugenio de Salles, the ultraconservative archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, could introduce hostile elements into the so far theological contradictions between the small conservative current and the majority of the Bazilian priests, who favor liberation theology.

Coinciding with the cacellation of Archbishop Obando y Bravo's visit, a report began to circulate in all of the churches in Brazil's 17 dioceses, describing the political activities conducted by the Nicaraguan cardinal as "coordinator of the counterrevolution's internal front" in his country. The report states that Obando y Bravo carries out activities linked to Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, former director of a Nicaraguan newspaper [LA PRENSA], who also visited Brazil last year as guest of International Cause, an anticommunist organization of the Moon sect.

SMP DRAFTING IN REGION 3 TO RESUME 7 APRIL

PA020427 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 6

[Text] Starting on 7 April, the representatives of the Patriotic Military Service, SMP, in Region 3 (Managua) will resume the drafting of youths who are fit to comply with the SMP Law. The drafting began last month and had a brief interruption during the Holy Week vacation.

During this phase, students in the mid-level schools and universities will be drafted, except for those who are studying careers in medicine and agriculture. The drafting of mid-level students will take place from 7-12 April at their respective school buildings. The university students will be summoned from 14-18 April at each university.

National SMP Chief Captain Daniel Pozo said that "the youths must assume a strong role in defending the country, particularly at this time when our sovereignty is being threatened with the war of aggression." In March we had the lowest percentage of violations of the SMP law, Captain Pozo said, adding that the young people are assuming their role in the defense with maturity. "While the attacks increase, the people are responding with more maturity." Meetings and speeches are being organized at the education centers in order to clarify everything concerning compliance with the SMP Law.

EPS FIGHTS ARDE REBELS IN SOUTH, ATLANTIC ZONES

PA030354 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0115 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Heavy fighting has continued in Nicaragua's south and Atlantic zones. Sandinists have attacked ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] counterrevolutionaries in order to gain time since the latter have not received any U.S. aid so far.

ARDE spokesman Hansel [not further identified] has reported that fighting is taking place on the banks of the Escondido and Plata Rivers, an area where Commander Goose operates, as well as on the Cukra River, where San Francisco is located, 20 km southeast of Bluefields. Commander Leonel's column is fighting the Sandinists near El Almedro, (Tilichapa), (Mua), and also Acoyapa. Five days ago the EPS attacked the rebels in Nicaragua's south and Atlantic areas in what could be described as the resumption of an offensive in this area, where little action had been seen because of the contras' shortage of ammunition.

Hansel said that he attributes the Sandinist offensive against ARDE's few resources to the U.S. approval of a $100-million aid package for the anti-Sandinists. ARDE fighters expected a big offensive from the EPS and were ready, although at a disadvantage due to the lack of arms. The Sandinists attacked with Mi-8 helicopters and sophisticated weapons, whereas ARDE has only M-79 and RPG-7 grenade launchers and 57 mm cannon. The rebels reported that the enemy has suffered a considerable number of casualties in the 5 days of fighting, which will continue for several more days. They denied that any fighting has taken place on the Costa Rican side, as has been reported abroad. As for refugees, Hansel said that 300 have entered Costa Rica during the past 15 days from several Nicaraguan departments and that this figure could get higher in the next few days.

REAGAN ARMING 'MERCENARY BANDS' CRITICIZED

PA030315 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Commentary by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The West's messiah, as some U.S. ultrareactionaries have described Ronald Reagan, seems to have been carried away in the past few days in his aggressive policy.

Pressure on the Congress to get no less than $100 million for the bands of former Somozist guards; the armed conflict in the Gulf of Sidra in Libya; rejection to the USSR proposal for the suspension of nuclear tests; in short, everything seems to indicate that the Yankee President is in a hurry to complete his interventionist plans in the 2 years before his term at the White House ends.

Furthermore, Western media have reported a new step in this counterrevolutionary wave, whose results are extremely dangerous because it is not only increasing the area conflicts promoted by Washington, but it is also a threat to international air traffic. There are plans to give surface-to-air missiles to the mercenary bands attacking Nicaragua, Angola, and Afghanistan.

Recently former President James Carter said that Reagan seeks to overthrow the Sandinist revolution before his term ends. We could add this to those other dreams of the White House owner -- the cases of Afghanistan and Angola.

According to reports by the U.S. television network ABC, THE WASHINGTON POST, and the UK newspapers THE GUARDIAN and THE TIMES, Reagan's purpose is to provide his proteges with Stinger portable anti-aircraft missiles, which puts a weapon capable of downing commercial planes in the hands of illegal groups, with obvious risks for international air traffic.

This step by the U.S. Government again makes clear that the present U.S. President, inclined to regard his enemies as terrorists, is actually the main promoter of terrorism in the world.

FLAVIO BRAVO ON L.A. PARLIAMENT MEETING, GOALS

PA020450 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Report by Barbara Betancourt]

[Text] The Cuban delegation to the special meeting of the Latin American Parliament to be held in Guatemala on 2 April left Monday from Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. The delegation is headed by Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, who agreed to answer our questions regarding the agenda of that parliamentary meeting.

[Begin recording] Well, the executive board of the Latin American Parliament called a meeting of parliamentarians from all over the continent in Guatemala on 2 April. The key objective is to discuss the Central American problem, that is, the situation which is so tense in Central America. The parliamentarians will discuss possible solutions to this situation. [end recording]

Bravo referred also to the way the situation has grown more acute in Central America following the alleged invasion of Honduran territory by Sandinist forces, as claimed by the U.S. Government.

[Begin recording] Actually, the U.S. maneuvers in Honduras were not caused by the alleged Nicaraguan invasion of Honduras. This is a North American invention that has practically fallen through. They had been holding maneuvers before Reagan spread this lie. He did this to get votes on the eve of the voting in the U.S. Senate. He scored a pyrrhic victory with a margin of only five votes in the Senate, which is dominated by Republicans. The situation is tense; however, it is tense because of the Reagan administration's aggressive policy of not engaging in dialogue and not seeking solutions but of imposing a regime on Nicaragua like the ones they are used to in Central America -- military regimes like that of Tacho [Anastasio] Somoza and other regimes in that Caribbean area. We will struggle to put an end to the North American aggression against Nicaragua.

The North Americans propose that the Nicaraguan Government negotiate with the so-called contras. These are not contras. This is a group of mercenaries. It would be the same as if we had sat down to talk with Batista's murderous criminals, except that the Nicaraguan (?leaders) have said correctly that they are prepared to talk with the head of the mercenaries, that is with Mr Reagan, who is the one organizing the struggle against Nicaragua. [end recording]

Comments on Foreign Debt

FL030115 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] of Cuba, has said the Latin American Parliament meeting that will begin tomorrow, Thursday, in Guatemala is a decisive forum for struggle for Latin America. Calling for continental unity, the Cuban leader said the situation continues to be aggravated, not just because of the conflict in Central America, but because of the regional countries' growing foreign debt. If we do not all unite against payment of the foreign debt and in defense of Nicaragua, if we do not firmly stand up to prevent Washington's military aggression against Sandino's fatherland, we will lose our own countries' independence, he stressed.

In reference to the position the Cuban delegation will maintain at the Latin American Parliament, Bravo said they will struggle for an end to U.S. aggression in the area. Bravo added that if there is no compromise from the White House, not just verbal but written, the crisis will not be resolved.

RISQUET CARRIES CASTRO MESSAGE TO ANGOLAN LEADER

FL021753 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] With a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro for his Angolan counterpart Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Communist Party of Cuba Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes has arrived in the Angolan capital. At Luanda's air terminal, the Cuban official told reporters that he will meet with the country's leadership to discuss southern Africa's burning conflicts, the struggle for Namibia's independence, and that of the South African people against the unfair apartheid regime. Jorge Risquet also expressed his satisfaction at being in Angola again and asserted they will also analyze matters related to bilateral relations between the two countries.

COOPERATION WITH GDR IN SUGAR INDUSTRY TO DOUBLE

FL021822 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Cooperation between the GDR and Cuba in our most important economic area will double during the present 5-year period.

During this period the GDR will provide 10 agricultural-chemical centers for the cane industry worth 15 million rubels. Those centers have the highest developed technology in the world in the use of fertilizers.

CASTRO AWARDS USSR TRIP TO OUTSTANDING WORKERS

FL022348 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Invited by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, 11 agricultural workers from Camaguey will visit the Soviet Union this year. The incentive includes all expenses paid for the worker and his companion and is awarded in recognition of the results obtained in the completion of the worker's production and service plans during the past year.

The group is composed of six national vanguard and five provincial workers in the areas of cattle, ports, material insurance (aseguramientos materiales), scientific-technical research, forestry, and agriculture.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS AT FOREIGN TRADE CEREMONY

FL030058 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Speaking at the main ceremony for the 25th anniversary of the Foreign Trade Ministry, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said that improving the quality of export products is the only way to compete in the international market.

Rafael Rodriguez said that this is everyone's task, especially producers, merchants, and sellers.

FOREIGN SECRETARY EXPECTS RENEWAL OF CONTADORA

FL022246 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 Mar 86, p 4

[By Epifanio Rodriguez]

[Text] Santiago -- Dominican Foreign Secretary Jose Augusto Vega Imbert said he expects that the efforts of the Contadora Group will be renewed in the search for peace and that a generalized conflict in Central America will be avoided.

Vega Imbert told LISTIN DIARIO that "the Dominican Foreign Secretariat is attentively following and greatly concerned with the recent tensions that have emerged in the Central American conflict."

The secretary also said that "the Foreign Secretariat is confident the principles of nonintervention and self-determination of the peoples will be completely preserved."

Vega Imbert reiterated his invariable position that a negotiated peaceful solution is the only true, desirable, and convenient solution for all parts.

The foreign secretary was participating here in the Dominican Revolutionary Party's convention to elect congressional candidates.

PRESIDENT'S WIFE TO RUN FOR SEAT IN SENATE

FL021256 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The wife of the president of the Dominican Republic says she will run for a seat in the Senate in national elections on 16 May. The candidacy had been offered to Santo Domingo Mayor Jose Francisco Pena Gomez after he agreed to a compromise allowing the Senate president to run for president for the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party. But Mr Pena Gomez said he did not want the job because he could not accept a lesser office, and President Salvador Jorge Blanco's wife Asela Mera registered instead. President Jorge Blanco has declined a second term in office.

BRIEFS

NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR -- President Salvador Jorge Blanco will receive on Monday Japanese Ambassador Suketaro Enomoto's credentials during a ceremony to be held in the hall of ambassadors at the National Palace. Foreign Secretary Dr Jose Augusto Vega Imbert will also attend. Ambassador Enomoto is replacing Takeo Inguchi. [Excerpt] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 Mar 86, p 3 FL]

CARDATS PROGRAM EXTENDED, AIDS EASTERN FARMERS

FL022150 Bridgetown CANA in English 2122 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, April 2, CANA -- The Grenada-based Caribbean Agricultural Rural Development and Advisory Training Service (Cardats), which is providing technical assistance to 1,600 farmers in the eastern Caribbean, has been extended to 1990, the Caricom Secretariat said today.

The project steering committee, comprising representatives of the participating Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries, the Caricom, and OECS Secretariats and funding agencies, was satisfied that Cardats has improved the lot of the small farming communities of the seven OECS member states, the Secretariat said.

The committee met in St Lucia on March 13 and 14.

BAHAMAS

CONTENT OF AGREEMENT WITH CUBA DISCLOSED

FL022036 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 2 Apr 86

[By Mike Smith]

[Text] Details of the Bahamas meeting with Cuba have been disclosed. The two delegations discussed matters of mutual interest including the limitation of maritime bondaries between the two countries, fisheries matters, sporting and cultural matters, and the importance of establishing contacts at the official level as a means of minimizing the risk of confrontation and misunderstanding between the Bahamas and Cuba and avoiding [word indistinct] attack an incident such as the HMBS Flamingo. [Bahamian vessel sunk 12 May, 1980 by Cuban aircraft]

The two ministers also exchanged views on cooperation and the ways of combatting international drug trafficking and terrorism.

Diplomatic relations between the Bahamas and Cuba were established in 1974. Both countries have agreed to maintain ambassadors at the non-resident level.

The Bahamas delegation was headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs the Honorable Clement T. Maynard.

The Cuban delegation was headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Isidoro Malmierca Poeli.

The two ministers conducted their discussions in an atmosphere that was frank and cordial. Both ministers agreed that dialogue on the important bilateral issues should continue at the ambassadorial level although such dialogue might also continue at the ministerial level from time to time.

BARBADOS

PRIME MINISTER PRESENTS 1986-87 BUDGET

FL030124 Bridgetown CANA in English 0109 GMT 3 Apr 86

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 2, CANA -- Barbados Prime Minister Bernard St John tonight presented his 1986/87 budget in Parliament here, announcing a 40.6 million dollar package of concessions and tax incentives, along with 15 million dollars in new revenue measures.

The budget, according to the government's estimate of revenue and expenditure approved by Parliament last week, calls for current spending of 700.2 million dollars (Bds doll; 50 cents U.S.), with revenue put at 704.6 million. Current spending for the last financial year ended March 31 was provisionally 653.5 million dollars.

St John, who is also minister of finance, removed from the tax net 7,500 more persons with an annual income of 10,000 dollars or less, lowered mortgage interest rates from 11 to 10 per cent, and cut the average lending rate by half-a-per-centage point to 9.5 per cent.

St John also reduced the central bank discount rate from 13 to 11 per cent and slashed from 60 to 50 per cent the maximum rate for personal income tax.

He announced a new aid programme for small scale, high export-earning manufacturing and service industries, which will have access to loans of up to half a million dollars each from the Barbados Development Bank.

St John lowered the prices of motor fuels by five cents per litre and liquefied petroleum gas by about 11 per cent.

The prime minister, who forecast economic growth this year of at least 3 per cent, declared: Today, as we look to the future with our economy poised for sustained recovery, the best is yet to come.